

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 22. Claims 19-21, 24-30, and 33 remain as previously pending.

1 to 18(Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A surgical clip adapted for clipping of viscera comprising:

- a plurality of jaws,
- a plurality of grasping tabs,
- a hinge,
- a mechanism to keep the jaws closed,

wherein said grasping tabs selectively fold inward against said jaws but may be folded outward to provide a grasping region to open said jaws.

20. (Original) The surgical clip of claim 19 wherein said jaws are ring-shaped and comprise an opening in the central region.

21. (Original) The surgical clip of claim 19 wherein the spring has spring characteristics which limit the force applied to the vessel to the range of 2 to 50 mm Hg.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for closing a wound in viscera having a lumen comprising:

a surgical clip comprising a plurality of opposing jaws, wherein each jaw is rotatably disposed about a hinge, wherein the jaws comprise large, padded tissue contacting surfaces having a generally hollow open ring-shaped configuration, and further wherein the jaws substantially exert force parallelism when they contact a tissue;

a spring operably engaging the jaws to bias the jaws shut;

at least one opening tab secured to each jaw, wherein the opening tabs are disposed between the hinge and the distal extent of the jaw such that they do not extend proximally from the hinge; said opening tabs being operable to open and close the jaws; and

a grasping instrument comprising a pair of jaws adapted to engage the opening tabs and apply force to the opening tabs to open the surgical clip, said jaws having a hinge accommodating space adapted to receive the hinge, and bosses located on the jaws so as to engage the opening tabs when the hinge is disposed within the hinge accommodating space;

wherein the spring force of the spring is limited and pre-set so that the force applied by the clip to the viscera to prevent closure of blood vessels within the wall of the viscera while causing complete closure of the wall of the viscera being clipped against the loss of visceral contents.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The clip of claim 22 wherein said clip further comprises a plurality of serrations on the padded tissue contacting surfaces of the jaws.

25. (Original) The clip of claim 22 wherein said force parallelism is maintained by a parallelogram hinge.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said force parallelism is maintained by a linear bearing.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said force parallelism is created by a soft pad of non-uniform thickness.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said force parallelism is created by a soft pad of uniform hardness.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising a damper to regulate the speed of closure of the jaws.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said jaws comprise projections along a major and minor axis and where said jaws project along said minor axis at least 25% of the projection along said major axis of the jaw.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

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33. (Previously Presented) The surgical clip of claim 19 wherein the jaws comprise a substantially oval shape.

SUMMARY OF THE INTERVIEW

On Thursday 14 June 2007, an Applicant, Jay A. Lenker, was extended the courtesy of a telephone interview with the Examiner. A summary of the interview follows:

- There were no exhibits presented at the interview.
- During the interview, Claims 22 and 26 were discussed.
- During the interview, revisions to both Claims 22 and 26 were proposed and reviewed. These revisions included clarification in Claim 26 that each jaw rotates a hinge. It was further suggested that amending Claim 22, from which Claim 26 depends would provide the best description of the claimed invention.

Results of Interview

The Examiner suggested amending Claim 22, rather than Claim 26, to overcome objections under 37 CFR 1.111. The Examiner indicated that the changes discussed would remove the objections to the specification and place the application in condition for allowance.